

**GEHYRA DUBIA (MACLEAY, 1877) CONFIRMED AS SENIOR SYNONYM OF PEROCHIRUS MESTONI DE VIS, 1890.** *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 38(2):610. 1995:- The gecko *Perochirus mestoni* De Vis, 1890 was described from a specimen collected from Bellenden Ker in north-east Queensland. Following examination of the holotype (Queensland Museum QMJ236), the name was placed in the synonymy of *Gehyra variegata* (Dumeril & Bibron, 1836) by Kluge (1963). This synonymy was followed by Covacevich (1971), Cogger et al. (1983) and Ingram (1990).

Recently, Bauer & Henle (1994) noted that the type locality and reported size of the holotype were more consistent with *Gehyra dubia* (Macleay, 1877) than *Gehyra variegata*, and tentatively synonymised *P. mestoni* with the former, though recommending that the holotype be re-examined.

The holotype of *P. mestoni* is faded, desiccated, contorted and damaged. The left mandible and associated tissues are missing, all toes and fingers other than the fourth toe on the right pes are missing, and the body is broken almost into two, probably by previous attempts at measurement of snout-vent length.

Nonetheless, diagnostic features (King, 1985) of *Gehyra dubia* are present on this specimen, a female with greatly distended endolymphatic sacs. The rostral scale is about 1.5 times wider than tall, gabled, and has at least three internasals bordering its dorsal margin. The right postmental contacts only the first infralabial, and is short, approximately twice as long as broad. The fourth toe on the right pes has nine expanded lamellae, the apicalmost divided, the remainder deeply creased. The snout-vent length is not able to be accurately measured, but is certainly greater than 50mm. Although Bauer & Henle (1994) interpret De Vis' (1890) statement "length 106mm" as snout-vent length, comparison of measurements of head and limb with the holotype indicates that this is a total length measurement.

The pattern, though faded, consists of at least broken fine dark vermiculations over the head and neck, consistent with photographs of live *G. dubia* (Wilson & Knowles, 1988).

The type locality lies outside the known distribution of *G. variegata*, but well within the known distribution of *G. dubia* (Ingram & Raven, 1991).

Consequently, *Perochirus mestoni* is formally synonymised with *Gehyra dubia*. This action requires no changes to current nomenclature.

Kluge's erroneous synonymy is understandable given the state of knowledge of Australian *Gehyra* systematics. At the time of his paper, *G. variegata* was differentiated from a composite *G. australis* largely on the basis of division of the distal subdigital lamellae. Additional characters distinguish-

ing *variegata* from the *G. australis* complex and recognition of additional species in the latter group awaited the work of Mitchell (1965) and King (1985).

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